

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

In accordance with the following, claims 1, 6-26 and 33-53 have been cancelled. No claims have been amended or added.

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
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26. (cancelled)

27. (original) A planning support apparatus for supporting planning of a vehicle, comprising:

exterior model building means for building an exterior model that expresses an outer appearance of the vehicle by reading out an exterior parameter group associated with an exterior shape of a vehicle, and changing exterior parameters included in the readout exterior parameter group;

interior model building means for building an interior model that expresses interior comfort of passengers by inputting passenger parameters associated with sitting states of the passengers in the vehicle; and

display means for superimposing the exterior model built by said exterior model building means, and the interior model built by said interior model building means.

28. (original) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said interior model building means builds the interior model by reading out and deforming human type models that express the passengers and seat models that express seats in accordance with the passenger parameters.

29. (original) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

structure model building means for reading out a structure parameter group associated with a structure of a framework of the vehicle, and building a structure model by adjusting structure parameters included in the readout structure parameter group, and

wherein said display means superimposes the exterior model built by said exterior model building means, the interior model built by said interior model building means, and the structure model built by said structure model building means.

30. (original) A planning support system for supporting planning of a vehicle, comprising:

a database for storing a plurality of exterior parameter groups associated with exterior shapes of a vehicle;

selection means for selecting one of the exterior parameter groups from said database;

exterior model building means for building an exterior model that expresses an outer appearance of the vehicle by changing exterior parameters included in the selected exterior parameter group;

input means for inputting passenger parameters associated with sitting states of passengers in the vehicle;

interior model building means for building an interior model that expresses interior comfort of the passengers on the basis of the input passenger parameters; and

display means for superimposing the exterior model built by said exterior model building means, and the interior model built by said interior model building means.

31. (original) The system according to claim 30, wherein said interior model building means builds the interior model by reading out and deforming human type models that express the passengers and seat models that express seats in accordance with the passenger parameters.

32. (original) The system according to claim 30, wherein said database further stores a plurality of structure parameter groups associated with structures of frameworks of the vehicle, said planning support system further comprises: selection means for selecting one of the structure parameter groups from said database; and structure model building means for building a structure model by adjusting structure parameters included in the selected structure parameter group, and said display means superimposes the exterior model built by said exterior model building means, the interior model built by said interior model building means, and the structure model built by said structure model building means.

33. (cancelled)

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